

THE GHOST AND MOLLY MCGEE
"SHE LOVES ME, SHE LOVES ME BOT"
525B-306 - 2nd Draft
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INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

The gym bustles with KIDS for the TRI-REGIONAL ROBOTICS COMPETITION. MOLLY enters as SCRATCH trails behind, sullen.

1 **SCRATCH**
(whining) You're gonna be here with
Andrea alllllll day?!

*

*

2 **MOLLY**
Andrea and like, 50 kids from the
surrounding schools! Friends,
learning, and the thrill of
building your own robot!

3 **SCRATCH**
Uggggh. I gotta be invisible AND
bored all day? Why did I even come?

Scratch stops as he spots an EXAMPLE BATTLE BOT. His eyes grow huge with delight.

4 **SCRATCH (CONT'D)**
Wait-a-minute. Is this a BATTLE bot
competition?!

5 **MOLLY**
Technically. But I'm thinking of
going more a pacifist route--

6 **SCRATCH**
Don't care! I have renewed purpose!
(cracks neck) Destruction's on the
menu today and I'll be eating GOOD.

*

*

*

Scratch rubs his hands together, evilly, then floats off as Molly arrives at a TABLE where ANDREA waits.

7 **ANDREA**
Heeeey Bestie! Ready to build the
most fantabulous robot ever?

Molly pours STICKERS, GLITTER, and PAINT from her BACKPACK.

8 **MOLLY**
Definitely. I brought a little
puffy paint, some googly eyes, a
dangerous amount of glitter...

MR. PHAM approaches and sets a ROBOTICS KIT and LAPTOP in front of them but refuses to look at the parts.

9 **MR. PHAM**

Here you go. Your parts and computing system.

10 **MOLLY**

Why are you running the robotics competition, Mr. Pham? Don't you hate robots?

11 **MR. PHAM**

Who told you that?? A robot?

12 **MOLLY**

Uhh... no?

13 **MR. PHAM**

Okay, good. Don't trust those guys one bit... That's why I'm here. To keep an eye on them... (then) Also the \$20 bonus pay.

A robotic eye from their kit rolls and hits Pham's hand.

14 **MR. PHAM (CONT'D)**

<SHRIEKS> It touched me!!!

He runs away as Andrea pulls stuff out of their kit, METAL ARMS, CIRCUIT BOARDS, etc.

15 **MOLLY**

Here's my vision: a bot who doesn't win with violence. She wins with--
(very serious)
Love. Can you program our robot to love?

*

16 **ANDREA**

Uhh... I can program it to hug?

17 **MOLLY**

I'll take it!

Then the Mewline team, ALINA (confident and relaxed A-type, a mini CEO in the making) and BEATRICE, enters. Alina greets the other teams with natural good-spirited gregariousness.

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18 **ALINA**

Lars! Hope you've been tightening up your code since last year - no more open brackets, amirite?

*

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*

LARS <CHUCKLES>. Alina and Beatrice sit at their table. *

19 **ALINA** (CONT'D) *
 All right, Beatrice, let's pull out *
 the circuit board, charge the power *
 cells, and-- can you find somewhere *
 for this kitten? *

Alina picks up a rogue KITTEN, before a cart rolls over it. *

20 **ALINA** (CONT'D) *
 While your cuteness is deadly, this *
 is no place for a kitty! How'd you *
 even get in here, little guy? *

Molly watches Alina - awed as she takes the cat to safety. *

21 **MOLLY** *
 Whoa. She just rescued a rogue *
 kitten! Who is she?? *

22 **ANDREA** *
 That's Alina! *

Alina waves to Andrea. Andrea shoots up her hand and gives a *
 big wave back, a giant smile on her face. *

23 **MOLLY** *
 <GASP> Alina?! As in "your *
 girlfriend from business camp" *
 Alina?! Oh my corn, I can't wait to *
 meet her! I just know I'm gonna *
 like her, then we'll become best *
 friends, and eventually I'll be the *
 Best Woman at your wedding! *

Andrea's flustered. She looks to Molly, sheepish. *

24 **ANDREA** *
 About that... I mean, Alina isn't *
technically my girlfriend. We did *
 co-chair the LGBTQ+ club and, like, *
 there was for sure a vibe, but... I *
 never actually told her I have a *
 crush on her... *

25 **MOLLY** *
 But what about your vision board? *
 The Davenports-Websters merger, the *
 cat rescue, your charities for *
 women's rights? *

Andrea pulls up the VISION BOARD on her phone from *
 "Davenports in Demise." She gives a <DREAMY SIGH.> *

26 **MOLLY** (CONT'D)
 You should make your vision a
 reality!

*

Andrea smiles, getting excited.

27 **ANDREA**
 Yeah? Tell her how I feel? (then,
 confident) Why wait until business
 camp when I could tell her today!

*

*

*

Molly adds a picture of herself in a suit to Andrea's vision board, the Best Woman at their wedding.

28 **MOLLY**
 Gonna give a toast so good there
 won't be a dry eye in the room.

*

29 **ANDREA**
 Hey, only I can add stuff to my
 vision board! (then) But that is
 very cute so I will be keeping it.
 (then) Now let's go find Alina!

*

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - ELSEWHERE IN THE GYM - SAME

Scratch floats down the aisle of kids building robots. He floats up to one and eyes it.

30 **SCRATCH**
 Hmpfh. You call this a battle bot?
 This couldn't beat a housefly!

*

He goes to a robot covered in spikes.

31 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
 Now you've got some potential!

Scratch possesses it. He tries to move but the joints CREAK.

32 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
 Have you ever heard of oil?! C'MON.

Scratch floats out and continues eyeing robots.

33 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
 Gotta be a winner here somewhere...

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - A LITTLE LATER

Andrea and Molly head across the gym toward Alina, who smiles confidently as she and Beatrice work on their bot.

34 **ANDREA**

She's smart, accomplished, wears
impeccably tailored blazers... I
mean how could I not like her? See?

*

*

Andrea shows Molly Alina's social media feed on her PHONE. We see PICS of her and a cat, her in her blazer, her making pottery, funny pics with her friends, winning the Young Entrepreneur Award, etc.

35 **MOLLY**

A real catch and a half! Ooooh, is
that the Young Entrepreneur Award?

36 **ANDREA**

Oh yeah, she was a *shark* at
Business Camp. The only person who
rivalled me. You'd think I'd be
jealous, but I'm impressed. She's
just so--

*

Then sweat pops out on Andrea's forehead.

37 **ANDREA** (CONT'D)

Am I... sweating?? Andrea Davenport
does not SWEAT. What is happening?!

38 **MOLLY**

Aw. You're nervous! That's so cute!

39 **ANDREA**

It is not cute! It's tragic!! Alina
is always so chill. She's not gonna
like me if I'm an embarrassing
sweaty mess! Even my hands are
sweaty!

Her phone slips in her sweaty hand. Trying to stop it from falling, her thumb slams down on the screen. HITTING THE LIKE BUTTON. Andrea's eyes get huge.

40 **ANDREA** (CONT'D)

Oh no. Did I... just like a photo
from... TWO YEARS AGO?!

*

41 **MOLLY**

(squints at phone) No. You liked a
photo from three years ago.

*

42 **ANDREA**

<WHINE> The ultimate social faux
pas! We can't let her see that
notification...

*

Andrea **sees** Alina reach into her pocket, pulling out a PHONE. *

43 **ANDREA** (CONT'D)
Noooooooo!

In SLOW MO, Andrea leaps up like a Secret Service agent diving in front of the President, and knocks the phone out of Alina's hands. It clatters to the ground before being run over by a robot. **REVEAL:** Scratch in the bot. *

44 **SCRATCH**
Oh yeah! Taste the power! Taste the destruction!

He speeds off. Alina helps Andrea up. Andrea turns red and hands Alina the remains of her phone.

45 **ANDREA**
Uhhh I was just... trying to save
your thumbs from getting
overworked? Need them to be fresh
for when you pilot the robot!
Uhhh... byeee! *

Alina "button-mashes" her thumbs, testing them out. *

46 **ALINA**
Oh yeah - joystick thumb. I'll try
to keep 'em loose and limber. *

Andrea scurries away, **embarrassed**. *

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - A LITTLE LATER

As Andrea looks embarrassed, Molly places GOOGLY EYES on the face of their robot. It's a rainbow-sparkly mess of joy.

47 **MOLLY**
Everything is better with googly
eyes! Have you finished coding?

Andrea swiftly taps a key on the laptop, looking at her code.

48 **ANDREA**
Yeah. <SIGH> Wish I felt as
confident talking to Alina as I do
about coding... I don't know what
happened back there! *

49 **MOLLY**
Well, you've got a second chance
because she's coming over here. *

Andrea's eyes go wide. She wipes her hands all over her hoodie, doing a subtle smell check. Alina approaches, confident, smiling, in charge.

50 **ALINA**

Hey Davenport, **major embarrassment -**
we forgot our C3 nut wrench. And
 then I think - y'know who's nuts
 for C3 nut wrenches? Andrea
 Davenport. Can ya help me out?

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*
*

Andrea tries to talk but just <STAMMERS.> Molly sidles up.

51 **MOLLY**

Sure **she can!** But, darn, **our**
toolbox is all the way on the other
 side of the gym. I'd get it but my
 hands are covered in glitter so...
 (getting a fake idea)
 Andrea, why don't **you** take Alina on
 a leisurely stroll to get the
 wrench, and ya know, maybe have a
 heart-to-heart...?

*
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*
*

She nudges Andrea suggestively.

52 **ALINA**

Weird that your tools are so far
 away from your station... but lead
 the way, Davenport.

*
*

We can hear Andrea's heart thump in her ears. She's sweating all over. There's panic in her eyes.

Molly gives her the "GO" eyes. Andrea gives a **panicked** head shake. Molly picks her up and puts her on her feet, trying to push her forward.

*

53 **MOLLY**

Go on, Andrea. You can do it!

*

But Andrea grabs the table as her knees go weak.

54 **ANDREA**

Sorry! Can't! Just... so busy!
 Roboting. Doing... robot stuff.

She hits some buttons on the controller, causing the robot to PULL MOLLY'S HAIR IN THE B.G.

55 **MOLLY**

Ow! OW! That's my hair! Robot --
 release! RELEASE!

56 **ALINA**

All right, not helping out the
competition? Ruthless, but I
respect it...

*
*
*

Alina leaves, a little disappointed. Andrea <GROANS> as the
robot releases Molly, but takes a clump of hair with it.

*

57 **ANDREA**

What. Is. WRONG with me?!

*

Mr. Pham scurries past them being chased by a Scratch-bot.

58 **MR. PHAM**

The robots! They're revolting!

Scratch waves to Molly on the way past.

59 **SCRATCH**

Moll! I am having a BLAST! WOOOOO!

*

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - LATER

Andrea jots down notes in a NOTEBOOK. She turns to Molly,
more confident than before.

60 **ANDREA**

Okay -- obviously my problem is
that I'm not good on the fly, so I
wrote down exactly what to say to
Alina. This way, I won't get so
tongue-tied and cringe.

Behind them, Mr. Pham pins up a BRACKET BOARD.

61 **MR. PHAM**

All right kids -- bracket's up.

Molly and Andrea hurry over to the board.

*

62 **MOLLY**

Okay, we're over here and--

Andrea slumps, her finger on the opposite side of the board.

63 **ANDREA**

Mewline's on the opposing side.
With the competition in full swing,
the only chance we'll get to talk
to Alina again is if we both make
the finals.

*
*
*
*

64 **MOLLY**

Well -- our robot's great! I'm sure
we'll make it! I mean, look at her!
How could we not?

The robot glints with the sheen of glitter.

65 **ANDREA**

Yeah but... what about Alina's? She
might not make the finals...

Molly smiles, getting an idea.

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - ELSEWHERE - SMASH CUT

Scratch strokes his chin, thoughtful, as Molly waits.

66 **SCRATCH**

So... you want me to possess
Alina's robot and use my battle
skills to take her to the top?

*
*

Molly nods. Scratch narrows his eyes, considering.

67 **SCRATCH (CONT'D)**

Aren't you against the whole
cheating-to-win thing?

68 **MOLLY**

This is for LOVE. And all is fair
in Love and Battle Bots.

Scratch puts on ectoplasm SUNGLASSES.

69 **SCRATCH**

Moll, I was already in. Let's rage.

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - A LITTLE LATER

We enter a **SONGBURST: "BATTLE OF THE HEART"** in the vein of
Marina and the Diamonds "I Am Not a Robot" with Andrea
singing about her feelings underscored by robot battles.

-- Andrea sings about wanting to talk to Alina, but every
time she tries her body just won't cooperate. Having such
strong feelings makes her feel vulnerable. Why can't she just
smash them down like a feelingless robot and tell Alina while
remaining confident and cool?

-- QUICK CUTS of Molly piloting her robot as it moves up the
ranks (their name moves closer to the center of the bracket).

Molly refuses to battle -- instead trying to love each bot into submission. The opponent robots ultimately destroy themselves, allowing Molly and Andrea's bot to move up.

*-- QUICK CUTS of Alina and Beatrice's Scratch-possessed robot beating competitors with wild fisticuffs. (Alina and Beatrice are surprised but pleased.) A robot dies at Scratch's hands and cries out that now it will never know love! Alina and Beatrice are surprised, but elated, at how well they're doing! Scratch only grows more ruthless and blood-thirsty. Their names move along the bracket board until... they land in the finals next to Molly and Andrea. **END SONGBURST***

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INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - MOMENTS LATER

Molly and Andrea stand before the board, looking at their name across from Alina's in the finals.

70 **ANDREA**

We did it!! I'll finally get the
chance to tell Alina I like her!
And now that it's all written down,
I can't mess it up.

Andrea and Molly head towards the arena.

71 **MOLLY**

That's the spirit! You're taking
that vision from the board to
reality! No turning back now. Just
let the words out, and then you
can't take 'em back!

Andrea looks down at the paper and panic takes over.

72 **ANDREA**

What if Alina doesn't like me back?
With how embarrassing I've been
today, how could she??

73 **MOLLY**

Andrea...

She crumples the speech.

74 **ANDREA**

No, Molly! If I don't say anything,
then I can still dream about me and
Alina. But if I tell her... I'll
know for sure she doesn't feel the
same. I'm-- I'm just not ready to
let my dream die.

Alina and Beatrice approach them.

75 **ALINA**
 (jocular) You ready, Davenport? I
 haven't forgotten about the C3 nut
 wrench! You're going down.

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*
*

Andrea meets Alina's eyes and gets frustrated with herself.

76 **ANDREA**
 I can't face her! I'm sorry.

She runs off. Molly calls after her:

77 **MOLLY**
 But--but-- what about the
 competition?!

Alina and Beatrice stand next to Molly. Alina <SIGHS>, hurt.

*

78 **ALINA**
 I was just kidding. I thought we
 were doing a bit? Is she mad at me?

*
*

79 **MOLLY**
 Uh... she... uh... You should
 really just ask Andrea.

Alina hands Beatrice the controller and goes after Andrea.

80 **ALINA**
 Beatrice, you captain the bot.

*

81 **BEATRICE**
 My moment in the sun!

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - MR. PHAM'S CLASSROOM - LATER

Andrea sits with her head down on a desk. Alina approaches.

82 **ALINA**
 Davenport, what is the deal? You've
 been really weird with me all day--

*
*

83 **ANDREA**
 <STAMMERS> I know--I just--

*
*

84 **ALINA**
 I thought we were friends but...
 apparently you don't even wanna be
 in the same room as me - so, hint
 taken. I'm done.

*
*
*
*
*

Alina marches off. Andrea looks devastated.

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - SAME TIME

Molly sets her bot down on one end of the arena. Beatrice sets down her Scratch-possessed robot on the other. LONG SHOTS as the robots glare at each other.

85 **SCRATCH**
So it all comes down to you and me.

86 **MOLLY**
Scratch -- it doesn't have to be
like this. We don't have to fight!

Scratch lunges at Molly's bot. She quickly pilots it away.

87 **SCRATCH**
I'm a BATTLE bot. I MUST BATTLE!

Scratch swings his arms wildly as Molly zips her robot away. Scratch chases after her bot, blood-thirsty.

88 **MOLLY**
We can both be winners! Wouldn't a
hug be better than destruction?

Molly's bot tries to hug Scratch, but Scratch zips around. Finally, Molly corners him. Her robot moves towards him, arms out -- reaching for the hug. She grabs him and pulls him in!

89 **SCRATCH**
NO! I just... wanna... punch...

Scratch tries to punch his robot arms but he's restrained.

90 **MOLLY**
We're not gonna fight! Just accept
the hug! Shh! Shh!

Molly tries to calm him. Scratch eventually relaxes.

91 **SCRATCH**
This is... actually quite nice.

Then... Molly's robot's arms tighten around Scratch.

92 **SCRATCH (CONT'D)**
Moll? Molly! It's too tight!! The
hug is too strong!!

Molly fumbles with the controls. Nothing's working!

93 **MOLLY**

OH NO! Scratch! I can't stop it!

The hug gets tighter and tighter! Finally, the Scratch bot EXPLODES! He lands in a charred puddle. Scratch flies out.

*

94 **SCRATCH**

Molly, I told you hugs were deadly
and now look what you've done!

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - OUTSIDE THE GYM - SAME TIME

Andrea runs up to Alina as she's about to enter the gym.

95 **ANDREA**

Alina! Wait! I'm... I'm sorry I've
been weird today. The truth is...

*

Andrea takes a <DEEP BREATH.> She looks away.

96 **ANDREA** (CONT'D)

I... like you. Like-like.
(quickly)

And it's fine if you don't like me
back -- I wouldn't blame you after
everything that happened today. But
I just--

97 **ALINA**

Davenport, I like-like you too.

98 **ANDREA**

(surprised) Like, really?

*

*

Now Alina blushes, getting a little shy.

99 **ALINA**

Like, yeah! I've tried to keep it
profresh, but I haven't stopped
thinking about you since business
camp... I even had this dream about
how we'd merge our families'
department stores one day-

*

*

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*

Andrea pulls out her phone and pulls up her vision board.

100 **ANDREA**

No way! That's literally on my
vision board! (then) Do you...
wanna go to Sam's Diner with me
after this?

*

101 **ALINA**
You've got a deal.

Andrea reaches out her hand and Alina takes it in a handshake... that turns into a hand hold.

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - CONTINUOUS

Andrea and Alina enter to see Molly on the winners' podium, being handed a BIG TROPHY. Andrea <GASPS.>

102 **ANDREA**
We won?!

Molly hangs her head, ashamed.

103 **MOLLY**
Yeah... I thought love could
conquer all but in the end... it
was war.

104 **ANDREA**
Love did win today.

She winks at Alina and Alina waves at her. Molly beams.

105 **ANDREA (CONT'D)**
Thanks for pushing me to tell Alina
how I felt, I'm glad I took the
chance, even if it was scary.

Andrea and Molly hug.

106 **SCRATCH**
Uch. You're RUINING this battle bot
competition with your mushy stuff!

Scratch spots Mr. Pham. He floats over and possesses a decapitated robot head just as Mr. Pham grabs it.

107 **SCRATCH (CONT'D)**
Welcome to the robot revolution.

Mr. Pham <SHRIEKS> and drops the robot. He runs off.

108 **MR. PHAM**
This was not worth the 20 dollar
chaperoning fee!!

THE END.